

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process for combating acarids in the storage of cereals, comprising consisting essentially of placing the cereals in contact with a powder, wherein the powder comprises that consists essentially of more than 40% by weight of sodium bicarbonate or more than 40% by weight of sodium bicarbonate and silica ~~for its acaricidal effects, wherein said cereals are infested with acarids and wherein the powder is free of neurotoxic substances.~~

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the cereals are stored in a silo and the powder is projected onto the walls of the silo.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein at least 90% of the granules that constitute the powder have a diameter of less than 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 13, wherein the diameter is less than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder comprises consists essentially of at least 95% of sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder has a combined acaricidal and insecticidal effect on the cereal.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of more than 40% by weight of sodium bicarbonate and at least 1% by weight of silica.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 18, wherein the silica is silica gel.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder has a combined acaricidal, fungicidal and insecticidal effect on the cereal.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder consists essentially of more than 40% by weight of sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 18, wherein the powder ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of more than 40% by weight of sodium bicarbonate and at least 4% by weight of silica.

**Claim 25 (Previously Presented):** The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder when in direct contact with the acarids induces at least 95% of death of acarids after 10 days.

**Claim 26 (New)** The process of Claim 22, wherein said cereals are infested with *Acarus siro* and wherein the powder has an acaricidal effect on the cereal such that the powder when in direct contact with the *Acarus siro* induces at least 95% of death of the *Acarus siro* after 48 hours.

**Claim 27 (New)** The process of Claim 22, wherein said cereals are infested with *Tyrophagus putrescientia* and wherein the powder has an acaricidal effect on the cereal such that the powder when in direct contact with the *Tyrophagus putrescientia* induces at least 100% of death of the *Tyrophagus putrescientia* after 24 hours.

**Claim 28 (New)** The process of Claim 24, wherein said cereals are infested with *Rhizopertha dominica* and wherein the powder has an insecticidal effect on the cereal such that the powder when in direct contact with the *Rhizopertha dominica* induces at least 47% of death of the *Rhizopertha dominica* after 72 hours.

**Claim 29 (New)** The process of Claim 24, wherein said cereals are infested with *Sitophilus granarius* and wherein the powder has an insecticidal effect on the cereal such that the powder when in direct contact with the *Sitophilus granarius* induces at least 10% of death of the *Tyrophagus putrescientia* acarids after 4 days.